

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-5 and 7-19, which were all of the then pending claims, under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over the prior art. Specifically, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11-13 and 15-19 were rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,092,114 (Shaffer, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 6,549,918 (Probert, Jr., et al.). Claims 3, 10 and 14 were rejected as being unpatentable over Shaffer, et al. in view of a document titled "Conversion Service" (CERN), and Claim 7 was rejected as being unpatentable over Probert, Jr., et al. in view of CERN.

Independent Claims 1, 7, 8 and 12 are being amended to better define the subject matters of these claims. Also, Claims 2 and 13 are being amended to elaborate on features described in these claims, and new Claims 20 and 21, which are dependent from Claim 1, are being added to describe preferred features of the invention.

For the reasons discussed below, Claims 1-5 and 7-21 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. The Examiner is thus asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejections of Claims 1-5 and 7-19, and to allow these claims and new Claims 20 and 21.

As discussed in Applicants' previous Amendment, there is a very important difference between this invention and the combination of Shaffer, et al. and Probert, Jr., et al. In particular, with the present invention, when a computer finds that a data file is not compatible with its operating system, that computer sends the data file over the Internet to a universal conversion server. In contrast, with the procedure described in Shaffer, et al., when a data file is not compatible with a computer's operating system, that computer sends a request to a server for a compatible file. That computer does not send the data file itself to the server. Instead, it is presumed that the server has or can obtain the data file from somewhere else.

It is noted that, in the Office Action, the Examiner does not specifically discuss this point, and instead, the Examiner argues, generally, that Shaffer, et al. discloses the step of "if the data file is not compatible with the computer, transmitting the data file over the Internet from said computer to a universal driver server." For support, the Examiner cites the Abstract and column 3, lines 4-6 and 21-37 of Shaffer, et al.

A careful review of these portions of Shaffer, et al. clearly show, however, that the data is not sent to the server by the computer that earlier received the file and determined that the file was not compatible with the computer's operating system. For example, the Abstract of Shaffer, et al. states that "If it is determined that a file format conversion is required, the conversion operation is assigned to a server..." (emphasis added). Similarly, column 3, lines 4-6 of Shaffer, et al. expressly states that "if the client device is unable to access the attachment without conversion, a request may be transmitted to the server to perform the conversion" (emphasis added). Nowhere in these portions of Shaffer, et al. is it disclosed that the computer, which has found the data file incompatible, sends the actual data file to the conversion server.

Probert, Jr., et al. describes an operating system layer between software components or application programs that expect information to be in one format and a persistent store manager of the operating system that maintains the information in this persistent state. This operating system is used to provide "on the fly" transformation between the file format expected by the application layer and the format used by the persistent store manager. The express teaching of Probert, Jr. et al, thus, is to provide this conversion software on the computer, and not on a remote server.

The prior art of record, thus, does not disclose or suggest the feature of, when the computer determines that a data file is not compatible with the computer's operating system,

using that computer to send that data file over the Internet from the computer to a remote server to convert the file to a format that is compatible with the computer's operating system.

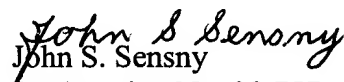
Independent Claims 1, 7, 8 and 12 to better emphasize the above-discussed feature of the invention. Specifically, Claims 1 and 12 describe the feature that, if the data file is not compatible with the computer, that computer transmitting that data file over the Internet from the computer to a universal server, which then transforms the file into a format compatible with the computer. Claim 7, similarly, describes the feature that, if the format of data that was entered into a computer is not compatible with that computer, that computer sending that data over a network to a remote universal driver, which then reformats that data into a format compatible with the computer. Claim 8, which is directed to a system for re-formatting computer files, includes apparatus limitations analogous to the method features described above in connection with Claims 1 and 12.

The other references of record, whether considered individually or in combination, are believed to be no more pertinent than Shaffer, et al. and Probert, Jr., et al. CERN, for example, was cited for its disclosure of a user identifying requirements, and reformatting a file in accordance with those requirements. This reference, though, does not disclose or suggest the way in which the data files are reformatted, as described in Claims 1, 7, 8 and 12.

Because of the above-discussed differences between Claims 1, 7, 8 and 12 and the prior art, and because of the advantages associated with those differences, these claims patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. Claims 2-5 and 17-21 are dependent from Claim 1 and are allowable therewith. In addition, Claims 9-11 are dependent from Claim 8 and are allowable therewith; and Claims 13-15 are dependent from, and are allowable with, Claim 12.

In light of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and to withdraw the rejections of Claims 1-5 and 7-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103, and to allow these claims and new Claims 20 and 21. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is asked to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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